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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown in the following Listing of Claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions (and listings) of claims without prejudice in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) In a contract manufacturing framework, a method of providing access to contract manufacturing and management services comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a particular service provider and contract manufacturing services provided by the service provider, and wherein the database further includes a plurality of hyperlinks to information;
 - (b) identifying a particular service provider data structure based on request data from a user;
 - (c) identifying a particular hyperlink based on the request data;
 - (d) sending the user the identified service provider data structure so as to identify to the user a particular service provider, and sending the user the identified hyperlink; ~~and~~
 - (e) allowing the user to obtain additional information utilizing the identified hyperlink;
 - (f) receiving order information for a new order from the user for manufacturing services from a particular service provider stored in the database;

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(g) checking budget constraints, wherein budget constraints are calculated by comparing cost of the new order plus past order costs against an ordering budget to determine whether the cost of the new order would exceed the ordering budget; and

(h) placing the new order for manufacturing services with the particular service provider if the cost of the new order is within the budget constraints.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the service provider data structures include data concerning contract service providers.
3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning legal services.
4. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identified hyperlink is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.
5. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the identified hyperlink is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country licensing.
6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a network.
7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
8. (Currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for providing access to contract manufacturing and management services in a contract manufacturing framework comprising:
 - (a) a code segment for providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a

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particular service provider and contract manufacturing services provided by the service provider, and wherein the database further includes a plurality of hyperlinks to information;

(b) a code segment for identifying a particular service provider data structure based on request data from a user;

(c) a code segment for identifying a particular hyperlink based on the request data;

(d) a code segment for sending the user the identified service provider data structure and so as to identify to the user a particular service provider, and sending the user the identified hyperlink; and

(e) a code segment for allowing the user to obtain additional information utilizing the identified hyperlink ;

(f) a code segment for receiving order information for a new order from the user for manufacturing services from a particular service provider stored in the database;

(g) a code segment for checking budget constraints, wherein budget constraints are calculated by comparing cost of the new order plus past order costs against an ordering budget to determine whether the cost of the new order would exceed the ordering budget; and

(h) a code segment for placing the new order for manufacturing services with the particular service provider if the cost of the new order is within the budget constraints..

9. (Original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the service provider data structures include data concerning contract service providers.

10. (Original) A computer program as recited in claim 9, wherein the service provider data

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structures further include data concerning legal services.

11. (Previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identified hyperlink is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning patent licensing.

12. (Previously presented) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identified hyperlink is capable of being utilized to obtain information concerning multi-country licensing.

13. (Original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a network.

14. (Original) A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the network is the Internet.

15. - 21. (canceled)

22. (Currently amended) In a contract manufacturing framework, a method of providing access to contract manufacturing and management services comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a database including a plurality of service provider data structures, wherein each service provider data structure includes a description of a particular service provider and descriptions of contract manufacturing services provided by the service provider;

(b) receiving request data concerning a desired service from a user;

(c) querying the database using the request data;

(d) identifying a particular service provider data structure based on said desired service so as to identify to the user a particular service provider capable of providing said desired

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service; and

(e) sending the user the identified service provider data structure ;

(f) receiving order information for a new order from the user for manufacturing services from a particular service provider stored in the database;

(g) checking budget constraints, wherein budget constraints are calculated by comparing cost of the new order plus past order costs against an ordering budget to determine whether the cost of the new order would exceed the ordering budget; and

(h) placing the new order for manufacturing services with the particular service provider if the cost of the new order is within the budget constraints.

23. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning contract service providers.

24. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the service provider data structures further include data concerning legal services.

25. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the request data includes data concerning pharmaceuticals.

26. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the database is accessed utilizing a network.

27. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, wherein the network is the Internet.

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28. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22;

wherein each service provider data structure further includes a hyperlink to information;

and

wherein the step of sending the user the identified service provider data structure comprises sending the hyperlink as part of the service provider data structure.